

[Jupiterimages](#)

[Sponsored Links](#)

[Networking Basics: Network, Master, Slave, Token Ring, Arpanet & Review](#)

[Computer Networking Pros: Network setup fees and support. Top-of-the-line and small NJ NYC](#)

[NY Computer Networking: Networking services and maintenance Management 24/7 support. Get quotes](#)

[Intellectual Property Law: Free, computer IP Protection. Easy to understand. Easy to find.](#)

[click for details](#)

Find out how an integrated IT mobility strategy can deliver ROI, productivity improvements, better employee performance, improved responsiveness and better utilisation of IT investments.

[Internet.com](#)

**(Webopedia)**

The #1 online encyclopedia dedicated to computer technology

**MENU**

- [Home](#)
- [Term of the Day](#)
- [New Terms](#)

# agent

**(n.)** A program that performs some information gathering or processing task in the background. Typically, an agent is given a very small and well-defined task.

Although the theory behind agents has been around for some time, agents have become more prominent with the growth of the Internet. Many companies now sell software that enables you to configure an agent to

[Whitepaper: Empowering the Mobile Enterprise - A Unifying Approach for the Way People Work Today](#)

[Whitepaper: Small Change Big Impact - The Benefits of a Basic IT Mobility Strategy](#)

[Whitepaper: The Anytime Anyplace World - Choosing the Right Mobile Connectivity Strategy for Your Enterprise](#)

[Download: Nokia Mobile Connectivity ROI Tool](#)

<http://www.pcwebopaedia.com/TERM/a/agent.html>

6/1/2005

What is agent? - A Word Definition From the Webopedia Computer Dictionary

Page 2 of 4

**Support**  
Webopedia  
Jobs

About Us  
Link to Us  
Advertising

go

Hardware

Software

Submit a

URL

Suggest a

Term

Report an

Error

**YAHOO!**  
shopping

Internet

Developer  
Downloads  
International  
Internet Lists

search the Internet for certain types of information.

In computer science, there is a school of thought that believes that the human mind essentially consists of thousands or millions of agents all working in parallel. To produce real artificial intelligence, this school holds, we should build computer systems that also contain many agents and systems for arbitrating among the agents' competing results.

•E-mail this definition to a colleague•

Sponsored Listings

MileGuide: Enrolled Agent Exam for Accountants - An international provider of continuing education for licensed accountants.

MostChoice.com: Insurance Agents - Offers nationwide network of local insurance agents. Agents can assist in choosing and applying for coverage.

How Corning: Oxidizing & Reducing Agents - Supplies custom chemical products and technologies, including silicones, silicon-based products, and existing air reducing agents.

For internet.com pages about agent click on the link. Also check out the following links!

**LINKS**

AI Lab Robotics Links

Extensive collection of links to robotics overviews, journals, research labs, personal home pages, clubs, and commercial robotics and agents companies' home pages.

UMBC AgentWeb

Provides a comprehensive collection of resources for intelligent information agents, intelligent agents, software agents, softbots, knowbots, and infobots.

**Related Categories**

Submitted Computing

**Related Terms**

program

**(Webopedia)**

Shopping Agent Products

Shopping Agent Products  
Corporate Products, Shoes and More  
Shop by Category:  
Network Management Tools  
2536 Kocaeli Yari  
Software Utilities  
500 Model Macras

http://www.pcwebopedia.com/TERM/a/agent.html

6/1/2005

# What is agent? - A Word Definition From the Webopedia Computer Dictionary

Page 3 of 4

[Internet News](#)  
[Internet Resources](#)  
[IT](#)

## AgentLink

Home page of AgentLink: Europe's ESPRIMO-funded Network of Excellence for agent-based computing, a coordinating organization for research and development activities in the area of agent-based computer systems funded by the European Commission.

[Linux/Open Source](#)

## Knowbot programming

This paper reviews researcher's experience in building a prototype system for supporting Knowbot programs, mobile agents intended for use in widely distributed systems like the Internet, and reviews some of the underlying services provided by the Knowbot Operating System.

[Personal Technology](#)

[Small Business](#)

## Yahoo's AI Intelligent Software Agents page

Yahoo's directory of AI Intelligent Software Agents.

[Windows Technology](#)

[xSP Resources](#)

## Yahoo's Intelligence Agents software companies page

Yahoo's directory of Intelligence Agents software companies.

[Search](#)

[internet.com](#)

## Sponsored listings

[Advertise](#)

[Corporate Info](#)

**Dow Corning: Releasing Agents Lubricants** - Supplies custom silicone and silicon-based products, and technologies, including releasing agent lubricants.

[Newsletters](#)

[Tech Jobs](#)

**KnowledgeStation: Software Agents** - Business technology search site offering software, services, reseller and hardware information on thousands of IT solutions.

[E-mail Offers](#)

[Be a Commerce Partner](#)

**eBay: Publications for Insurance Agents** - Online marketplace for buying and selling publications for insurance agents.

[Laptop](#)

**eBay: Publications for Literary Agents** - Online marketplace for buying and selling publications for literary agents.

[Computers](#)

[Digital Camera](#)

**eBay: Travel Agent Training** - Online marketplace for buying and selling travel agent training materials.

[Store](#)

[Phone Systems](#)

[Memory Flash Cards](#)

[Cheap Plane Tickets](#)

[Promotional Gifts](#)

[Price Comparison](#)

<http://www.pcwebopaedia.com/TERM/a/agent.html>

6/1/2005

What is agent? - A Word Definition From the Webopedia Computer Dictionary

Page 4 of 4

Discount Hotel  
Rooms  
Auto Insurance  
Online Degrees  
Long Distance  
Service  
T-Shirts  
Ad Serving  
Solution

### JupiterWeb networks:

Internet.com

JEARTHWEB



Search JupiterWeb:

Find

Jupitermedia Corporation has four divisions:  
JupiterWeb, JupiterResearch, JupiterEvents and JupiterImages

Copyright 2004 Jupitermedia Corporation All Rights Reserved.  
Legal Notices, Licensing, Reprints, & Permissions, Privacy Policy.

Jupitermedia Corporate Info | Newsletters | Tech Jobs | E-mail Offers

<http://www.pcwebopaedia.com/TERM/a/agent.html>

6/1/2005